

STORE BUILDING-509 COMMER-  
CIAL AVENUE - CAIRO ILLINOIS

HABS NO. 25-21  
1

Alexander Co.

Reduced Copies of Measured Drawings  
PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
CENTRAL ILLINOIS DISTRICT NO. 25

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
EDGAR E. LUNDEEN, DISTRICT OFFICER  
BLOOMINGTON ILLINOIS

Store Building, 509 Commercial Ave., Cairo, Illinois

ALEXANDER CO.

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by Edgar E. Lundeen, Bloomington, Ill. May 1934

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This building, used as a store and ~~for~~ living quarters is a good example of the types of ~~such~~ buildings that were <sup>as</sup> being built at the time just preceding the Civil War. Existing photographs picture this building together with the first brick house in Cairo three doors to the north. This brick house was used as the Government Post Office during the war and the photograph shows Gen. Grant and his staff at this place. Undoubtedly the store at 509 Commercial Avenue witnessed a great deal of activity during the perilous times in and around Cairo where General Grant had his headquarters at the time of the Civil War.

The front has been remodeled once, a door being added in place of the center window on the second floor. Otherwise the front section remains as originally built. Brick and frame additions were added in later years toward the rear. Some years ago there was a stairway from the sidewalk leading to the second floor. The first floor is now occupied by a key and lock repair shop. The second floor is unoccupied.

An abstract of title shows the following, viz:

Nov. 20, 1854 First sale of vacant lot to W.P. Lamothe for \$500

Apr. 3, 1863 Sold to O.T. Philbrick \$800. must have still been vacant according to the price.

May 22, 1865 Sold by Philbrick for \$2000, indicating that the lot had been improved. The house must have been erected sometime between April 1863 and May 1865.

Feb. 20, 1866 Sold to W.H. Schutter for \$1500

May 2, 1871 Sold by foreclosure to Henry Dinkel

Apr. 26, 1873 Willed by Dinkel to his wife, Elizabeth.

May 9, 1876 Willed by Elizabeth Dinkel to Nat Prouty. (Before her death she and Prouty were married.)

Dec. 12, 1894 Sold to Louis Herbert. Before his death he willed the property to his children, Oscar, Byron and Matilda who are the present owners.

Reference: Letters of M. J. Hawley of Cairo to  
E. E. Lundeen, dated 5/17/34 and  
5/19/34

Letter E. Lundeen  
Bloomington, Illinois.

*Reviewed 1936 by H.C.F.*